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CJCC Mission

The Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) was established in 2002. The mission of the CJCC is to enhance public safety and the effective and efficient administration of the criminal justice system in Waukesha County through community collaboration by ensuring offender accountability and providing rehabilitative services, while supporting the rights and needs of victims.

JUSTICE CONNECTIONS

Spring 2012

Message from the CJCC Chairman



Chief Judge J. Mac Davis

I hope you find value in this spring 2012 edition of *Justice Connections*. While it contains several articles on our activities and progress, I want to call special attention to the article on the 5th Anniversary of our Day Report Center (DRC). The DRC is an important and successful example of the progress of the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council.

Just over five years ago, the Sheriff reported that he was approaching a crisis in staffing the work release jail. Our CJCC leaped into action, bringing the County Executive, County Board, Judiciary, and law enforcement quickly in accord. We used the impending crisis to implement a new, positive, and broad approach to

monitoring offenders, while also helping them overcome risk factors for recidivism. Over 1,000 offenders have been served in the DRC program over the past five years, which is effectively and efficiently operated by Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) through a contract with Waukesha County.

My term as Chairman of the CJCC ends July 31, 2012, as my six years as Chief Judge expires. Being Chairman of the CJCC has definitely been one of the most positive experiences of my term. County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, County Executive Dan Vrakas, and the other elected officials and leaders of the CJCC have been such constructive partners in our criminal justice system. Our coordinator, Rebecca Luczaj, has been an organized, reliable, and adroit administrator. I have been so very lucky to work with all of them.

Featured CJCC Program: Offender Reentry Employment

The Waukesha County Offender Reentry Employment Program, which began in January 2010, provides services to help unemployed Waukesha County Huber Facility inmates secure permanent, stable employment, enabling them to fulfill their responsibilities to their families and community in order to live productive lives, free of criminal activity.

The Offender Reentry Employment Program, operated by WCS through a contract with Waukesha

County, seeks to reduce recidivism by helping offenders find work, easing the transition back into the community after being released from custody. Offenders reentering the community are most vulnerable to failure in the early stages after release from jail or prison since they face the challenges of adjusting to freedom, temptations, and everyday responsibilities.

The offender population confronts many barriers to employment, such as low education levels, stigma, criminal history, lack of skills

and lost time in the labor force. Finding a stable and adequate source of income upon release from jail is an important factor in an individual's successful transition back to the community.

The program served 182 offenders in 2011, who received services ranging from resume development to structured job search. In 2011, WCS assisted 25 offenders secure permanent employment with wages ranging between minimum wage and \$15.00/hour at over 22 different businesses throughout Waukesha and Milwaukee counties.

Waukesha County Day Report Center Celebrates 5th Anniversary



The Waukesha County DRC, celebrating its 5th year anniversary this month, served its first client on April 24, 2007. The program originated in an effort to reduce overcrowding in the Huber Work Release Facility and County Jail and to provide comprehensive services to offenders, ultimately reducing recidivism. Since inception, the DRC has saved

approximately 38,969 jail bed days and served 987 clients, 85% of whom successfully completed the program.

The DRC, operated by WCS, receives referrals from three sources: the Courts, the Sheriff's Department, and Probation. Offenders are referred from the Courts as a sentencing alternative to incarceration; the Sheriff's Department refers inmates as a mechanism to reduce overcrowding; and Probation agents refer offenders as an alternative to revocation. Individualized supervision plans and goals are developed for each participant based on personal assessment results to target and support needs and promote accountability and success. Participants report to the DRC one to five times per week to receive direct support with employment services and referrals to community agencies to help with education, anger management,

food, shelter, clothing, parenting, and other needs.

Offenders are held to a high level of accountability. There is a zero tolerance policy for offenders released from Huber to the DRC; non-compliance results in the offender's return to jail. The Courts impose graduated sanctions to non-compliant, Court-referred offenders with the intent of minimizing jail time and helping offenders take responsibility for their actions. Sanctions may include increased supervision, community service, alcohol monitoring and house arrest, and jail time.

In its 5th year of operation, the DRC continues to motivate behavioral change, reduce overcrowding in the Huber Facility and Jail, and reduce recidivism. Participants frequently comment that the program helped them see better ways to deal with their problems, be more accountable, and improve their lives.

Waukesha County Hosts Successful Smarter Sentencing Training

On January 19-20, 2012, forty-five criminal justice system professionals, including judges, attorneys, and community corrections supervisors, gathered at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha for the Research-Based Smarter Sentencing Training, facilitated by the Justice Management Institute and The Carey Group. Teams of justice system professionals from 10 counties attended the training including Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth and Waukesha counties.

The training, made possible through a grant awarded to the CJCC from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, focused on applying the knowledge about "what works" in changing offender behavior during the adjudication phase of the criminal justice process by applying the latest, best practices research to plea negotiation, sentencing, and revocation processes in the local criminal justice system. Practitioners learned the importance of making charging and sentencing decisions based on the "offender" instead of the "offense" by utilizing individual risk and needs data generated from validated assessment instruments.



From Left to Right: Judge William Domina, Rebecca Luczaj, Sam Benedict and Judge Jennifer Dorow

CJCC Wins State Grant Award!



Role play is an important part of CIT where officers are able to practice the skills they have learned throughout the week.

In March 2012, the CJCC was awarded a \$49,500 grant from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) to provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to law enforcement in Waukesha County. The CJCC will partner with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Waukesha to facilitate two CIT trainings in April and September 2012, where approximately 23 police officers and Sheriff's deputies will complete the 40-hour certification. The 6-month grant, beginning

April 1, 2012, is an expansion of an existing grant awarded to the CJCC in 2011 from OJA, in which 42 police officers and Sheriff's deputies throughout Waukesha County have already been successfully trained and certified in crisis intervention.

The CIT training includes four primary learning objectives, which include: gaining an understanding of the variety of human conditions which can lead to non-criminal crisis situations requiring police response; learning technologies that the officer can deploy which will reduce the risk of injury or incident within the context of crisis response; improving awareness of community resources designed to treat the conditions which led to the crisis and how to link citizens to those resources, reducing unnecessary arrest or detention of citizens; and understanding how, when properly deployed, these techniques and resources decrease risk to officers and citizens in crises, reduce repeated crisis response to individual citizens, improve law enforcement public image, and improve long-term outcomes for persons experiencing crisis.

Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court Enrolls First Participants!

After several months of thorough planning and preparation, **the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court enrolled its first participants in March 2012.** The program, made possible through a three-year, \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), will serve a minimum of 75 non-violent, high-risk, drug dependent offenders over the length of the grant.

The mission of the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court is to advance public safety, reduce crime, reduce



Weekly Staffing Team Meeting

costs to our community, and improve individual and community health by providing intensive, integrated, evidence-based court supervision and comprehensive treatment services for drug dependent offenders.

Entry into the Drug Treatment Court program is initiated through a binding plea agreement in a criminal case. The minimum duration of the program is 12 months, consisting of four intense phases requiring

frequent, random drug and alcohol testing, substance abuse treatment, regular status hearings in front of the drug court judge, attendance at self-help meetings, frequent case management meetings, and other requirements. Upon successful completion of the Drug Treatment Court program and approval by the staffing team for graduation, the terms of the plea agreement will be executed.

For more specific information about the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court program, please visit the CJCC website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cjcc.

Client Success Story: Community Service Options Program

“Rob” was referred to the Waukesha County Community Service Options (CSO) program by his Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) probation agent following his release from prison, where he was serving a sentence for his sixth OWI. The CSO, a program jointly funded by Waukesha County and the DOC, places inmates in positive work settings to reduce the amount spent on incarceration and provide services and assistance to nonprofits.

“Rob’s” job search was unsuccessful leaving him feeling frustrated, discouraged and unproductive. To help him feel more productive and help him maintain sobriety, “Rob’s” probation agent placed him at the St. Vincent de Paul Store for 20 hours per week of community service. “Rob” frequently exceeded his required hours and after working more than 375.5 hours was hired as a supervisor. “Rob” recently

celebrated his one year working anniversary at St. Vincent de Paul, and told his CSO case manager that the program changed his life and helped him feel needed. He is happy the program gave him a chance to prove he is a good worker and considers the people at St. Vincent de Paul family. The store manager said “Rob” is his best worker.

“This program is a great way for offenders to give back to the community” said Karl Held, Community Corrections Field Supervisor for the DOC, whose agents work collaboratively with the program to assist their clients in completing court-ordered community service hours. In 2011, 484 offenders participated in the CSO program, completing 34,592 community service hours, which equates to approximately \$250,792 in cost savings for local non-profits, using the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

CJCC Membership

Chief Judge
Waukesha County Executive
Waukesha County Board Chair
Waukesha County District Attorney
Waukesha County Sheriff
Waukesha County Clerk of Circuit Court
City of Waukesha Mayor
First Assistant State Public Defender
DOC - Division of Community Corrections
Health & Human Services Director
Police Chiefs’ Association Member
UW-Extension Director
Citizen Member



From left to right: County Board Chair Jim Dwyer, City of Muskego Police Chief Paul Geiszler, Chief Judge J. Mac Davis, Citizen Joanne Huelsman, Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Clerk of Courts Kathy Madden, HHS Director Peter Schuler, District Attorney Brad Schimel, First Assistant State Public Defender Sam Benedict, County Executive Dan Vrakas. Not pictured: City of Waukesha Mayor Jeff Scrima, DOC-Community Corrections Supervisor Karl Held, UW-Extension Director.

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